

Dr. Virginia Caine, a *Local Legend*

Virginia Caine, MD, Director of the Marion County Health Department and an Associate Professor of Medicine at Indiana University Medical School, is the new President of the American Public Health Association. Though her energy, her talent and her accomplishment long ago lifted her to national prominence, I write to nominate Dr. Caine, MD, for recognition as a *Local Legend*, for her contributions to public health and to the image of women in medicine.

As many are still asking questions, Dr. Caine provides us with answers. Her accomplishments are legion: while her specialty in infectious diseases has earned her a national reputation for her work with HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases, at the same time she has dealt creatively and decisively with their threat to local public health.

When she took the helm of our public health department, Indianapolis had the highest infant mortality rate in the nation. In a year's time her mobilization of diverse community energies and interests helped turn the problem around, offering real promise for our newborn.

Dr. Caine enriches us: her service is simply exceptional. Her commitment, in the highest tradition of service to profession, to community and to country, commends her for special recognition.